

Admiral Sir Tony Radakin KCB ADC



Chief of the Defence Staff

General Martin Herem
Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces
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27th June 2024

Dear Martin,

As you approach the end of your tenure, I write to thank you for your exceptional service. Your steadfast commitment to the defence of your nation is admirable and your principled stance on ensuring adequate preparedness sets a fantastic example to all of us in NATO.

May I offer my gratitude for your invaluable support to ensure the success of the UK's Forward Land Forces deployment; it is notable that the FLF has been transformed during your time. I also salute your commitment to establish the Estonian 1st Division, an impressive feat in such a short timeframe. I must also express admiration for your vocal and unfaltering support for Ukraine, and the flexibility you have exhibited in supporting the donation of UK capability based in Estonia.

You and your country have consistently proven to the NATO allies that Estonia is willing to make significant sacrifices in pursuit of ensuring Ukraine's victory. It is vital that we remain resolute in ensuring Russia's aims are defeated in Ukraine. I will miss your steadfast support in reiterating this message in the strongest of terms at the multilateral events we have attended together.

I also reflect on the invaluable support you have provided to the development of the JEF over the last six years. I believe the JEF is truly coming of age as an additional tier of security in the Baltic Sea region. This was exemplified by the implementation of JRO 3.2 in response to damage sustained to your BALTICCONNECTOR cable last year, and the upcoming implementation of NORDIC WARDEN.

Thank you for the years of friendship and collaboration we have shared, and I wish you and your family all the very best for the future. Your work has continued to ensure that the UK and Estonia will always be the strongest of allies.

Thank you so much for
your support and friendship.
And very best wishes for
the future.

Yours,

Tony